



EMPOWERING WOMEN
SINCE 1881

San Antonio Branch NewsLetter

FEBRUARY 2014 Vol 106 • Issue 1

President's Corner

As the New Year is beginning, I am taking the opportunity to briefly recap recent happenings for the organizations we heard speak at our Fall branch meetings.

The **Slow Food of South Texas** (September) has updated their website (slowfoodsouthtexas.org) with their 2014 events, ranging from monthly meetings at Tribeca, monthly food tastings and discussions, upcoming cooking sessions, and even an evening book club. Their January book selection is, **Salt: a World History** by Mark Kurfansky.

Construction at the **San Antonio Children's Museum's** (October) new campus scheduled to open in June 2015 is progressing quickly, the tinted exterior walls are standing and the interior framing is nearing completion. The museum's future home was featured in a recent Rivard Report on current construction projects transforming San Antonio. The San Antonio Express-News' January 9, 2014 North Central

News article, "Museum-grade Learning" mentioned the museum's new partnership with Communities in Schools.

The **Expanding Your Horizons** (November) conference to promote young girls' interest in science and math was held January 11, 2014 at the UIW campus. The **Youth Orchestras of San Antonio** (December) has multiple concerts scheduled over the next few months (yosa.org). On **February 17**, YOSA's *Pictures at an Exhibition* concert will be accompanied by video and media art created by young artists from **SAY Sí**, and Christopher O'Riley, host of public radio's *From the Top*, will play the Grieg Piano Concerto.

The four remaining programs for this year with a connection to the AAUW mission and the impact to the younger generations should be as interesting and informative as the first four. Plus, we will be presenting our 2014 scholarships at the April meeting. Plan to join us, and bring a friend with you. ~ **Barbara Kyse**

February Meeting

Saturday, February 1, 2014 • 11:00 am-1:00 pm • **Los Patios** • 2015 NE Loop 410 • 210-655-6171

***Lunch Choices** • **Cost \$20** • Chicken Salad plate (served in a tomato) with fruit salad or Chicken Crepes Gazebo with fruit salad and mixed vegetable • Tea and coffee

***Menu choice must be made when making your reservation.** Reservation deadline is **Tuesday night, January 28, 2014.** Contact Kate Vettters, kvettters@sbcglobal.net or 210-696-1804.

Program The Women and Girls Development Fund

Speaker Jelynn Burley, Fund Co-chair. **Details on page 2.**



WOMEN & GIRLS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Empower. Encourage. Exceed.

About. The Women and Girls Development Fund is one of three community outreach funds of the San Antonio Area Foundation. Created in 2009, this Fund builds a community of women who bring positive change through philanthropy. Women leaders pool their collective giving power to support charitable programs that allow women and girls to reach their full potential.

Mission. Build a community of philanthropists to foster leadership and support programs that enable women and girls to reach their full potential. The Fund's Co-Chair, **Jelynn Burley**, will be the speaker at our February branch meeting. Jelynn is the Executive Vice President & Chief Delivery Officer of CPS Energy, where she oversees and provides strategic direction for electric and gas delivery, customer service, and their interface with Joint Base San Antonio.

2012-2013

Branch Officers

President Barbara Kyse
President-Elect Pat Sanford
VP Membership Fran Vettors
VP Programs Sue Ewers
Treasurer Janina Kuzma
Secretary Beverly Baucum
Parliamentarian Sharon Bartling

Chairs

AAUW Funds Jeanette Pierce
Public Policy Malinda Gaul
Finance Lisa McDougle
Scholarships Karen Reichensperger

Newsletter

Editor Patricia Sommersby
 To submit information for the newsletter, contact Barbara Kyse, bckyse@msn.com or call 210-824-8884

Email Kate Vettors for Reservations

kvettors@sbcglobal.net
 or call 210-696-1804

Inside this Issue

President's Corner	1
February Meeting	1
W-G Develop Fund	2
SA Scholarships	2
Branch Officers	2
Nominating Comm ...	2
Feb Study/Interest	3
Philanthropy Focus ..	4
AAUW Public Policy .	4
AAUW History	5
State Convention	5
Fund Spotlight	6
Directory Updates ...	6

AAUW San Antonio Scholarships

Even though the scholarship deadline is **February 8, 2014**, the branch has already begun receiving applications for our 2014 graduate and textbook scholarships. Planning is underway for the review process. Mark your calendars for the **April 5** branch meeting at the Pompeii Grill when we will award the 2014 scholarships. If you are interested in contributing to the textbook scholarship fund, please send your check payable to the **AAUW-San Antonio branch** to PO Box 460825, San Antonio, TX 78246-0825. Be sure to indicate on the check that the funds are for the scholarships.

Nominating Committee 2013-2014

It's that time again to think about candidates for branch leaders to be elected at the branch's **Annual Meeting in April, 2014**. This year's Nominating Committee members include Malinda Gaul (chair), Pat Sanford, Sharon Bartling, Gayna Dupont and Beverly Baucum. The positions for which they will be nominating candidates include:

1. Vice President Programs • 1 year position
2. Vice President Membership • 1 year position
3. Secretary • 1 year position

Please send recommendations for nominees to any member of the Nominating Committee by **February 1, 2014**. Or, if you are interesting in serving on the branch's leadership team, let Malinda Gaul know.

February Interest & Study Groups

Effective in February, **The Girl's Night Out** group has been reformatted to a Happy Hour event, now called **Wine, Women and Wisdom**. Come join members and friends for a beverage, light snacks, and enlightened conversation (perhaps on current AAUW topics and policy).

CHAT-N-CHEW

Sunday, February 2, 2014 • 2:00 pm

Contact: Malinda Gaul • 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com

CULINARY ADVENTURES

Thursday, February 20, 2014 • 11:30 am

Location: **India Oven** • 1031 Patricia (366-1030)

Contact: Fran Vettters to reserve • 210-481-7765 or frankenvettters@sbcglobal.net

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST

Saturday, February 8, 2014 • 12:00 pm

Program: **The Valley of the Lions**

Speaker: **Linda Persyn**, Historian, Storyteller and newspaper columnist

Location: Doubletree Hotel at McCullough and Loop 410

Contact: Sophie Lim (before Thursday, Feb 6) • 210-445-0654 or limsoph@gmail.com

NIGHT BRIDGE

Monday, February 3 and 17, 2014 • 6:45 pm

Location: **La Madeleine** at Park North (Loop 410 & Blanco)

Contact: Marilyn Traylor • 210-696-8299 or mjanetray@yahoo.com

SATURDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Saturday, February 8, 2014 • 10:00 am

Book: **Flight Behavior** by Barbara Kingsolver

Location: Kate Vettters' house

Contact: Diantha Perelli • 210-497-4121 or cyclobabe1946@yahoo.com

WANDERING WONDERS

Friday, February 21, 2014 • 10:00 am

Location: **Historic and Architectural Walk of Downtown San Antonio**

Contact: Nancy Fix Anderson for information, to sign-up or arrange carpooling
210-370-9459 or anderson@loyno.edu

WINE, WISDOM, AND WOMEN

Wednesday, February 25, 2014 • 4:00-6:00 pm

Location: **P.F. Chang's** in the Alamo Quarry Market

Contact Malinda Gaul • 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com to reserve a place

Philanthropy Focus for the Month

San Antonio Area Foundation

Celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2014, the **San Antonio Area Foundation** has distributed more than \$230 million in grants and scholarships grants to educate youth, preserve the environment, protect animals, fund research, and provide services that enhance the quality of life for people living in and around San Antonio.

Per a December 25, 2013 article in the San Antonio Express-News, "some years back, leaders at the San Antonio Area Foundation began discussing ways to nurture the practice of philanthropy among minority communities—groups that typically are on the receiving end of such largess. The foundation, which manages and distributes millions in charity dollars to local non-profits each year, wanted to foster a spirit of giving among African-Americans, Latinos, and women and girls. In the past six years, the three funds that were created to encourage this philanthropy—with the money in turn targeting non-profits that address needs in those communities—have distributed close to \$500,000."

The first group to form six years ago was the **South Texas Hispanic Fund**, which to date has given our \$230,000 in grants and created a \$200,000 endowment fund. **The San Antonio Area African Community Fund**, created in 2008, has to date distributed \$60,000 in grants, the endowment is now at \$300,000. The third initiative fund is the one we will learn more about at our February branch meeting, the **Women & Girls Development Fund**, which has given \$200,000 in grants and created an endowment of \$140,000 in four years.

AAUW Public Policy

Washington Update (November 15, 2013)

I have to confess, I used to be pretty excited about Black Friday sales and holiday shopping. It was my time to stock up on gifts for family (and myself). But my enjoyment has diminished in recent years as I learn more about retail workers and how many of them struggle to get by making only the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

The minimum wage has been stuck at that rate for the last four years. Someone who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, at the minimum wage will take home less than \$20,000. That's below the poverty line for a family of four. You could do nothing but work, and still live in poverty. That's not right. Indeed, a majority of Americans think it's not right. It wasn't always this way, and it doesn't have to be. The Senate is expected to vote soon on the **Fair Minimum Wage Act**, which would gradually increase the minimum wage over the next three years until it eventually reaches \$10.10. The minimum wage is a working woman's issue. Fifty-six percent of workers who would benefit from this bill are women, and especially for women of color.

Urge your members of Congress to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act (H.R. 1010/S. 460). Raising the minimum wage is an important step toward increasing the economic security of working women and their families, and it's a step members of Congress should take. The American dream is to build a better life for your family through hard work. Raising the minimum wage is a key part of that. ~ *Beth Scott, AAUW Regulatory Affairs Manager*

Link to National AAUW website to encourage Congress to support Fair Minimum Wage Act:
http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=8352

Moments in AAUW History

The “Communist Threat” — 1950’s

In his notorious, five-hour speech, Sen. Joseph McCarthy accused former AAUW international relations associate Esther Brunauer of being, “instrumental in committing this organization to the support of various (Communist) front enterprises.” Following the accusations, the AAUW Board of Director’s issued a statement (excerpts follow).

“For the most part, we and like-minded groups have been put on the defensive. If we attacked communism and the communists, we found ourselves in the camp with self-seeking or fascist-minded individuals who by their methods of attack were undermining the freedom and democracy they professed to defend. If we defended our liberties as a free people, we ran the risk of being called communist sympathizers, fellow-travelers, and even communists. So we have sat back more or less paralyzed and have allowed other people to take the initiative and to create a dilemma for the honest and loyal liberal.” ...

“The problem we face is not simple, but the basic issue is clear. If we are to hold fast to our cherished values as a free, people we must preserve both freedom and national security. We must not sacrifice one in our attempt to preserve the other, for both are necessary to our way of life. This is not an issue that can be settled either by labeling all liberal movements as “communist” or by brushing off all criticisms as “smears.” ...

“Let us be explicit. Communism is a threat to freedom and democracy. We are against it. Fascism is likewise a threat to freedom and democracy. We are against it. The use of totalitarian means to fight communism or fascism is a threat to freedom and democracy. We are against it. The differences between democratic and totalitarian values are clear.”

The full text is available on the National website <http://history.aauw.org/>

AAUW Texas State Convention

The AAUW Texas 46th Biennial State Convention, hosted by the Northeast Tarrant County Branch will be **April 25-27, 2014** in Hurst, Texas. The Saturday evening keynote speaker will be **Jan Reid**, the author of the book, **Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann Richard**. Also scheduled to speak at the convention will be branch member Malinda Gaul, who is one of our National AAUW directors, and Mark Hopkins, the National AAUW’s Chief Strategy Officer. Any interested AAUW members may attend the State convention.

Early Bird registration for the convention is only **\$195**. After March 1, the registration fee for the convention will be \$225. The AAUW Texas website has additional information on the state convention, plus the registration forms (<http://aauw-tx.aauw.net/events-projects/events/2014-state-convention/>).

If you are interested in representing the AAUW San Antonio branch as a delegate, please contact branch president Barbara Kyse.

AAUW Fund Spotlight

American Fellowships

The oldest and largest of AAUW's fellowships and grant programs, the **American Fellowships** program began in 1888, a time when women were discouraged from pursuing an education. Now one of the largest sources of funding for graduate education for women, AAUW has provided more than \$90 million to upwards of 11,000 fellows and grantees since awarding its first fellowship to **Ida Street**, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history.

American Fellowships support women scholars who are completing dissertations, planning research leave from accredited institutions, or preparing research for publication. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence; quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research.

Fellowships and grants categories under the American Funds include: Dissertation Fellowships, Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowships, and Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grants. The source of this information is our National AAUW website: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/american-fellowships/> If you would like information on the Fund or know someone who might be interested in applying, please check out the National AAUW website.

The AAUW San Antonio Branch has scheduled a FUNdraiser, Tuesday, January 21 at the California Pizza Kitchen, where 20% of sales with the Flyer attached to the newsletter email will raise funds for the National AAUW. The Flyer is good the entire day for dine-in or take-out. Join friends, and benefit AAUW at the same time.

Mid-year Membership Directory Updates

- **New or corrected addresses**

Anderson, Dr. Nancy Fix
300 E Basse Rd, #1315
San Antonio TX 78209-8384

McNutt, Janet
7887 Broadway #704
San Antonio TX 78209-2537

Solis-Martinez, Maria M.
2124 W. Romneya Dr
Anaheim, CA 92801-1638

- **Phone number corrections**

Bartling, Dr. Sharon 210-493-3144
Talarski, Elaine 210-521-5496

- **Email changes/corrections**

Brennan, Mary mb triana@yahoo.com
McDougle, Lisa mcdougle@uiwtx.edu
Owens, Rosa rosa.owens@wayland.wbu.edu
Walker, Cathy cwalker@antonioan.org

- **Rejoined the branch this year**

Wong, Virginia Yee
4910 Newcome
San Antonio TX 78229-5336.
210-647-3547

If you have had changes to your contact information, please let us know.